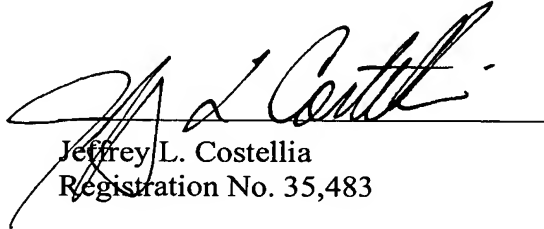


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct the description of the claims to place them in proper U.S. format. In addition, the Abstract also is amended to place it in a single paragraph in order to avoid objection thereto.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
401 9th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000